United Nations E/2006/47

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–3	2
II.	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations of the United Nations	4–64	2
	A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean	6–36	3
	B. United Nations Development Programme	37–49	8
	C. United Nations Centre for Trade and Development	50–51	12
	D. International Labour Office	52–57	12
	E. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	58–63	13
	F. Additional replies	64	14

* E/2006/100.

06-34466 (E) 070606

I. Introduction

1. At its substantive session of 2005, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2005/49 of 27 July 2005 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in which it requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters contained in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 60/112 of 8 December 2005, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on the question, and requested it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

3. Information submitted by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations on their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information provided by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations, during the period under review, a number of the specialized agencies and organizations have continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have extended or formulated such programmes of support from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of support.

5. A number of assistance projects have continued to be funded by UNDP, in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Report on the support to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, 2004-2005

6. Of the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands have an active relationship with the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The Territories regularly participate in activities of ECLAC as associate members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The CDCC was established in 1975 as a permanent subsidiary body of ECLAC, to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries, and to serve as an advisory and consultative body to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in respect of Caribbean issues and circumstances. Recently, the Cayman Islands received technical assistance from the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and at the thirty-first session of ECLAC, held in March 2006, the Turks and Caicos Islands was admitted as an associate member of ECLAC. Both the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos are expected to be admitted as associate member countries at the next ministerial session of the CDCC to be held in January 2008.

7. In an effort to provide information on all member countries of the CDCC, including its associate member countries, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has created development profiles on each country.[1] The information presented below is taken from those profiles as well as the existing databases of the Secretariat.

8. Recent observations made at the twenty-first session of the CDCC, held in Port of Spain, on 16 and 17 January 2006, have led to the identification of the following major economic and social issues affecting the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories:

(a) The need to facilitate access to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas within the system that could provide technical and other assistance in the furtherance of their development process;

(b) The need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories given their size and economic conditions, as well as their vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental degradation;

(c) The need to extend its work in disaster assessment in close cooperation with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and other relevant regional institutions to help small Caribbean States to deal with the adverse effects of natural disasters. The assessment should include risk reduction with the objective of strengthening the resilience of the people and societies;

(d) The need for more direct action, particularly in terms of social and economic analysis and the development of relevant policy recommendations, as well

[1] The profiles are available at www.eclacpos.org. Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre — Development Profiles.

as the strengthening of evidence-based policy formulation to address the issues of vulnerability and social cohesion;

(e) The need for greater flexibility in the analysis of the position of the associate members with regard to the economic and financial impact of either their inclusion or exclusion in regional trade integration processes;

(f) The need to understand the economic and financial impact that the inclusion or exclusion of associate members with regard to Economic Partnership Agreements of the European Union and the Free Trade Area of the Americas would have on their economies;

(g) The need to address the impact of the increasing pattern of intraregional migration in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean.

Monitoring and management

9. As associate members of the CDCC, the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean have been afforded the opportunity to participate in global forums of the United Nations system and in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

10. In that regard, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean includes information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories in much the same way as it does with regard to the independent countries in the subregion. That is dependent on the availability of salient information for inclusion in research. In fact, in the 2005 issue of the *Economic Survey in the Caribbean*, country notes have been prepared for Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands. Also, for the first time, a review of the economic performance of the Turks and Caicos will be included in the CDCC *Economic Survey of Caribbean Countries*.

11. Direct support is provided to those countries to attend most meetings and training workshops organized by ECLAC. Publication of the report on the participation of associate member countries in United Nations world conferences supported those activities.

12. More information on the activities of all member countries of the CDCC can be found in the Development Profiles section of the official website of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean at http://www.eclacpos.org/KMC/default.asp.

Economic and social profiles[1]

Anguilla

13. In the 2005 budget address, the Government of Anguilla stated that the basis for development since 1980 has been the tourism industry, and it reiterated its policy to promote "low volume-high value upscale tourism". That is seen as the only way to sustain the industry given its small size and vulnerability to environmental, social and economic upheaval. Growth in Anguilla's economy has been attributed to growth in the tourism and construction sectors, as such, gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have increased from $36.9 million (East Caribbean dollars) in 1984 to a projected $365.2 million in 2004. In per capita terms, GDP per capita has increased from EC$ 5,281 (US$ 1,956) in 1984 to approximately EC$ 29,800

(US$ 11,074) in 2004. Estimates of the expansion in economic activity in 2004 range from 12 per cent (Caribbean Development Bank) to 14 per cent (Eastern Caribbean Central Bank), up from 3 per cent in 2003. Growth in tourist arrivals is expected to continue into 2005, boosted by the expansion of the airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Information presented in the 2005 budget showed that visitor arrivals grew from 8,172 visitor arrivals (stay overs and day trippers) in 1980, with some 120,000 visitors expected to visit Anguilla's shores in 2005. As a direct result of the improvement in economic fortunes the population has increased by 71.7 per cent since 1984, that is from 6,987 to about 12,200 currently. Much of that increase has been due to in-migration, mainly from other Caribbean countries. Non-Anguillians now make up 28 per cent of the population. As a result of that new phenomenon, the Government has established a new immigration policy.

14. To ensure sustained development, the Government of Anguilla has developed the following strategic programmes:

(a) A Strategic Framework for an Information Economy for Anguilla: a draft policy document from the Government of Anguilla — Identifying Priorities for Action;

(b) A draft five-year education development plan: Anguilla 2005-2010. A first draft has been submitted for public consultation before ratification by the Government. The purpose of the Education Development Plan is to provide overall strategic direction for the development of education in Anguilla over the next five years and to serve as a road map for implementation;

(c) Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy. Medium Term. 2005-2009, aimed at providing a management framework of institutional structures and operational mechanisms to significantly reduce vulnerability to hazards of all kinds;

(d) Anguilla National Hurricane Plan.

15. ECLAC has no ongoing national programmes in Anguilla.

British Virgin Islands

16. In 2004, real economic growth surged to 5.3 per cent (from -5.2 per cent in 2003) despite continued contractions in the construction sector. The path of economic expansion was spearheaded by the tourism sector (16 per cent of GDP), which after two successive years of decline managed to fully recover in the course of the year. In 2004 total visitor arrivals grew by 24 per cent and cruise ship passengers by 55 per cent.

17. The expansion in economic activity translated into higher government revenues, which allowed the Government to reduce its budget deficit (1.5 per cent and 1.1 per cent in 2003 and 2004) in spite of the significant increase in recurrent expenditures. That resulted in an increase in the total monetary liabilities by 10.3 per cent in 2004 (compared to -19 per cent in 2003) in consonance with the expansion in aggregate expenditure. The commercial banking systems' balance sheets reflected the positive outcome in the external sector, with a current-account balance of US$ 267 million (31 per cent of GDP). The current account responded to the ongoing surplus on the merchandise and services balance. In particular, the performance of external sales reflected the upswing in services exports by 7 per cent (-1 per cent in 2003). For their part, imports responded to the rise in internal

demand, as both imports of goods and services increased by 5.2 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively (-2.4 per cent and -1.4 per cent in 2003).

18. For 2005, further plans to liberalize and diversify are carded in order to relieve the public purse. Construction activity is expected to increase as business activity grows. GDP growth is also expected to continue rising. In addition, a new company law regime (the British Virgin Islands Business Company Act) came into effect providing several tax incentives to attract foreign direct investment.

19. The British Virgin Islands Government, which recognizes the importance of its offshore business, has benefited tremendously from the financial services, a key element of the British Virgin Islands economy, which contributed approximately half of its revenues. The sector services international business companies and recently has also been moving in the direction of mutual funds and captive reinsurance. The British Virgin Islands, one of the world's best-known offshore financial centres, is not a financial centre for everyone given its national slogan to market tourism which says, "Yes, we are different", which is certainly so for the financial service sector.

20. Following the termination of the income tax treaty with the United States in 1982, the International Business Ordinance was introduced in 1984, which provides for the incorporation of companies exempt from British Virgin Islands taxes. The success of the financial sector in the British Virgin Islands is due almost exclusively to its role as the world's leading jurisdiction for international business companies.

21. Of the 37,000 acres of land, it is estimated that 10,000 acres are not suitable for any form of agriculture, as they are too precipitous and rocky. Of the 27,000 acres suitable for agriculture, only 2 per cent is flat land. The soils are derived from granite schists and shales, and can support as good a vegetative cover as the depth of soil, nutrient status and rainfall will allow.

22. ECLAC has no formal projects under way in the British Virgin Islands.

Montserrat

23. In 2004, preliminary data indicated that Montserrat recorded its third successive year of economic growth. Preliminary estimates reveal a growth in GDP of 4.26 per cent in 2004. That is an improvement in the revised 1.2 per cent growth rate achieved in 2003. The increased economic activity was influenced mainly by increases in value added for the banks and insurance, transportation, real estate and housing, construction, hotel and restaurants and government sectors. In contrast, there was a contraction of economic activity in the agriculture sector.

24. The economy of Montserrat is small, very open and is very heavily dependent on imports of merchandise goods. The population currently stands at just over 5,000, having declined from approximately 10,500 in 1995. Prior to 1995 tourism (and in particular residential tourism) and its related services were the mainstay of the economy, contributing on average about 40 per cent of GDP. Currently, tourism contributes only 15 per cent to GDP. Over the past three years, however, economic activity has been dominated by government services and the construction sector. The combined contribution of the two sectors has averaged some 55 per cent of GDP between 1997 and 1999.

25. ECLAC has no current programmes in Montserrat.

United States Virgin Islands

26. The elected Government is currently ending its second term in office and elections are scheduled for 2006.

27. Economic growth in 2004 (3.0 per cent) and 2005 (estimated at 3.2 per cent) reflects buoyant tourism activity and a strong performance of the business and financial services sectors. Both air and cruise ship passengers reached record levels and grew by more than 10 per cent. In 2005, growth continued at a rate of 5 per cent.

28. Tourism is the main engine of growth and the total number of visitors increased by 9.6 per cent between 2003 and 2004. The number of visitors surpassed 2.6 million per year in 2004, higher than the previous peak of 2.5 million visitors achieved in 2001. Total expenditure of visitors was up by 8 per cent in 2004 compared to 2003 and reached US$ 1.36 billion. In the manufacturing sector, the value of refined petroleum production was up 40 per cent as a result of higher commodity prices and increased demand. Cruise ships began direct refuelling from the Hovensa oil refinery. Also the rum industry, comprising the Virgin Islands Rum Industries Ltd, is producing well. On the other hand, the watch industry has been declining. Total watch shipments were down 20 per cent. Construction activity grew less in 2004 than it had done in 2003, owing to the finalization of major projects and delays in the start-up of others. The total number of jobs declined 3 per cent, but growth is expected to be strong in 2005 and 2006. The financial services sector was one of the most vibrant, reflecting the success of the Economic Development Corporation programme, containing tax benefits for bona fide companies legally based in the United States Virgin Islands.

29. Preliminary unemployment figures show a decrease from 9.4 per cent in 2003 to 7.9 per cent in 2004 and 7.5 per cent in 2005. Employment in manufacturing edged up 5 per cent to 2,146 jobs. The construction of Hovensa's desulphurization unit is expected to produce 400 jobs. Hotels and restaurants had a good year and the total number of jobs rose 4 per cent.

30. The fiscal situation of the United States Virgin Islands was precarious by the end of the 1990s, following a string of hurricanes that wrecked the economy and led the Government to accept federal loans for emergency assistance. In 2000, a five-year economic and fiscal recovery plan was adopted to obtain long-term financial stability. The Government was authorized to issue bonds up to US$ 300 million to obtain funds for current expenditures. Although much has been achieved in terms of fiscal discipline, the country still carries a government debt estimated at US$ 1 billion and interest payments weigh heavily on the fiscal position. A fundamental restructuring of debt has not occurred.

31. Meanwhile, the Government presented its Executive Budget 2006 in July 2005, based on US$ 726 million of projected revenues. Those revenues stem from taxes (80 per cent), fees (6 per cent), interest and other revenues (14 per cent), among which is the Internal Revenue Matching Fund that transfers taxes levied in the United States on activities performed in the United States Virgin Islands.

32. Total expenditures are estimated to balance the budget at US$ 726 million and include transfers to other funds, including the Internal Revenue Matching Fund. Those expenditures include US$ 87 million for debt service (12 per cent of revenues).

33. The United States Virgin Islands maintains its own taxation authority, vested in its Bureau of Internal Revenue, pursuant to the United States Internal Revenue Code Regulations. The Internal Revenue Service and the Bureau of Internal Revenue are separate tax administrators and their relationship is governed by the Tax Implementation Agreement between the USVI and the United States, signed in February 1987. The United States Virgin Islands residents report worldwide income with the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue and do not file an income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service.

34. In late 2003, the Representative of the United States Virgin Islands to Congress introduced a bill (108th Congress, H.R. 3589) to establish the position of a Chief Financial Officer who would oversee all government expenditures. The Government does not support the bill, stating that it would severely impair the authority of elected territorial officials. In September 2004, Congress reported the bill to the Senate and recommended its approval. In March 2005, the Senate referred it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

35. The United States Virgin Islands had embarked on a policy of attracting companies that provide services outside the territory (investment management, consulting and software development). Under certain conditions, those companies could qualify as legitimately based in the Virgin Islands and hence obtain significant tax exemptions. A new federal law, the American Jobs Creation Act, signed in October 2004, imposes additional requirements for qualification for bona fide United States Virgin Islands residence and limits the possibilities for tax reduction. The impact of the law depends on the details of implementation, but an instrument of the United States Virgin Islands' economic diversification policy has been weakened.

Cayman Islands

36. ECLAC undertook the following activities in the Cayman Islands in 2004 and 2005 upon the request of UNDP in Jamaica:

(a) Assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of Hurricane Ivan on the Cayman Islands, 23 November to 2 December 2004;

(b) Conduct of a training workshop in the use of the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology in the Caribbean, 18-22 April 2005.

B. United Nations Development Programme

Assistance provided by UNDP to Non-Self-Governing Caribbean Territories: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos, Cayman Islands and Bermuda

37. Through the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) project, UNDP has provided since 2002 to a number of Non-Self-Governing Caribbean Territories and continues to provide technical assistance and policy advice in the areas of macroeconomic, financial and fiscal management and production and management of economic statistics.

38. Anguilla has received support in financial sector supervision to review its draft Financial Services Commission Act, developing risk management guidelines

covering capital adequacy, corporate governance, accounting and auditing, related party transactions, large exposures and asset qualification along the lines of those currently under development with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. In public finance management, Anguilla has received technical advice on reform proposals with arrangements discussed for follow-up by a Smartstream Workshop to be coordinated by the Accountant General of Anguilla. In the area of tax collection, Anguilla received support for the drafting of the Tax Administration Act, as well as training inputs for a group of officers in audit techniques in general, and in the audit of hotels in particular. In the area of statistics development and use, there was an initial expert mission facilitating a broad review of available resources for developing a supply and use table. That assistance is supporting the Anguilla Department of Statistics initiative in a number of areas, including updating the business register and assigning industry classifications. The Department of Statistics has also systematically computerized national accounts data collected through the annual surveys, and conducted a product survey of businesses. Areas of concern relate to estimates of subsistence and informal activity. A phase II component with funding for another three years of assistance has just been approved.

39. UNDP is also providing support to Montserrat through the project "Disaster mitigation, capacity-building and institutional strengthening in support of Montserrat's post-emergency resettlement programme".

40. Since 1998 UNDP/United Nations Volunteers has been providing support through that project with funding coming from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID) with some counterpart funding from the Government of Montserrat. That support seeks to provide institutional and capacity-building by relieving bottlenecks in and providing training to a number of key government departments to facilitate the implementation of the Montserrat resettlement and recovery programme. That support also seeks to provide disaster mitigation assistance to the Government through integrated vulnerability analysis essential to disaster prevention and sustainable development of newly formed communities in the safe zone. This will, among other things, encourage the return of Montserratians for permanent resettlement. The technical assistance has been provided by the United Nations Volunteers and is still ongoing. A total of 21 Volunteers from 17 nationalities have served in Montserrat since 1989 on 26 different assignments of the island's development and good governance programme.

41. United Nations Volunteer support can broadly be divided into the following areas:

(a) Physical planning and infrastructural development. This support has been provided through the Ministry of Public Works. The outputs targeted and largely achieved are the strengthening of the Physical Planning Unit with emphasis on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and increased civil engineering capacity of the Public Works Department, Ministry of Communications and Works. Some of the work done through that support has been the construction of a hospital morgue, Community Care Centre, new police headquarters, living quarters, helicopter pad, concrete roads and drainages. A new government headquarters is now being designed with key inputs coming from United Nations Volunteers. Also in physical planning, support has been provided for the creation of various land resources databases, and the computerization of Montserrat cadastre and land registry systems through the use of GIS techniques. GIS data services have been rendered to various

departments for supporting projects in resource planning, mapping and development, especially the application of Land Information Systems;

(b) Occupational therapy and physiotherapy, including community care for the elderly particularly before and after their relocation from the volcano shelters into newly constructed warden-supported apartments. The clear output which was intended and has largely been achieved has been the strengthening of Montserrat's Psychological Development Programme of the Ministry of Education, Health and Community Services. That entailed training of staff in community care for the elderly in the Ministry of Health. In 2005 support went to providing rehabilitation services to the elderly and disabled. Efforts also focused on providing help in assessing and ordering of durable medical equipment for the home care agency and nursing home, advising on providing accessibility to the handicapped during construction of buildings, and training on Special Olympics;

(c) Capacity-building and institutional strengthening. That includes both direct training of staff and institution building in the various areas of disaster mitigation and recovery that United Nations Volunteers are involved in and have been involved in over the years.

Outputs

42. The following outputs have been and are being achieved through support:

- Improved architectural project design of various government departments for more efficient implementation of the country's resettlement programme
- Increased civil engineering capacity of the Public Works Department, Ministry of Communication and Works
- Increased land valuation capacity of the Land Development Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
- Trained capacity for community care for the elderly in the Ministry of Health
- Strengthening of the Physical Planning Unit, with priority emphasis on Geographic Information Systems
- Strengthening of the Montserrat Psychological Development Programme of the Ministry of Education, Health and Community Services, with priority emphasis on psychological and counselling services
- Strengthened implementation of the resettlement programme capacity by various Government of Montserrat Departments

43. The main beneficiary has been the Montserrat Emergency Department, which will now be able to provide guidance on disaster vulnerability to development planners and private sector initiatives in the coming years. Technical assistance and transfer of know-how have also helped a number of key Ministries such as Agriculture, communication, Works and Health to strengthen capacity to serve Montserrat's population. The most vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, have also benefited as a result of improvements in health, water, roads, housing, security infrastructure, and education facilities.

44. It is expected that at the end of the project the following will have been achieved:

- Disaster management prevention and mitigation will be incorporated into the design and development of the new communities in the safe zone
- A more efficient implementation of the country's resettlement programme for the on-island and returning displaced Montserratians through alleviation of technical and institutional bottlenecks in a range of government departments will be ensured

45. UNDP is also providing support to Montserrat and Anguilla in environment sustainability in support of Millennium Development Goal 7 under the project on strengthening environment management capacities of six countries members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. It is a regional project whose main objective is to enhance the capacity of environmental management within the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, at the government and community levels through volunteer contributions, in particular through ensuring the participation of civil society (emphasis on youth and women), mobilizing local volunteer groups for their involvement in the development of national policy and promoting the roles volunteers play in environmental management.

46. The project started in Anguilla and Montserrat in September and December 2005 respectively. It seeks to support Governments of Anguilla and Montserrat through the ministries in charge of environment, by strengthening their environmental management capacities. It also seeks to support civil society.

47. UNDP through the United Nations Volunteer programme is providing one international United Nations Volunteer specialist in environment in each country for an initial one-year period. The United Nations Volunteer in each of the countries is working with the ministry in charge of environment. Focus is on the implementation of the National Environment Management Strategies, the facilitation of outreach work for the development and implementation of the Global Environment Facility Enabling Projects. The Volunteer, through the department, is expected to provide support to community groups in fostering their skills in environmental management so that they acquire enhanced project skills. That would assist in positioning them to greater success with the relevant Small Grants Programmes.

48. The following outputs are expected to be achieved:

- Implementation of the National Environment Management Strategies of both countries
- Selected government and community members trained and capable of replicating activities in support of development of environmental management capacities
- The establishment of evaluation mechanisms for the existing education efforts on environment matters
- Enhanced community sensitization about environment matters, such as climate change, biodiversity, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and land degradation
- Greater number of communities benefiting from the Small Grants Programme leading to enhanced resources for addressing local environmental concerns

49. UNDP also provided non-project support to a number of initiatives and activities as follows:

- Support to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration in its engagement with the Bermuda Independence Commission. The Committee visited Bermuda in April 2005 and a follow-up visit in June 2005. UNDP funded the participation of the Deputy Resident Representative, Jamaica, and a regional consultant who provided technical support to the Committee
- UNDP supported the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Socio-Economic Assessment for the Cayman Islands in the wake of the destruction caused by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004
- UNDP under its Caribbean Risk Management Initiative project has supported a Comprehensive Disaster Management Review in Turks and Caicos and also supported the best practice development of the British Virgin Islands disaster risk reduction programme, which has been mainstreamed into its overall policy framework

50. Since 2003 and through a project supporting capacity-building for search and rescue in the Caribbean, UNDP has provided support to all Non-Self-Governing Territories to strengthen their capacity for land-based search and rescue, which includes: training in warehouse management and communications, formulation of policies in that area, warehouse improvement, provision of communications and transport equipment for search and rescue operations.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

51. Through its research and analysis on the structural handicaps and issues of vulnerability faced by small island developing States (SIDS), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supports those countries in their efforts to gain increased recognition from the international community, particularly in the multilateral trading system and in the sphere of development financing.

52. UNCTAD takes into account that the economic experience of some Non-Self-Governing island Territories (which have highly specialized economic activities, such as tourism and offshore financial services) is of interest to many self-governing SIDS. It is important to highlight the structural problems faced by those States and their need for special treatment, in the relevant international arenas. That also benefits Non-Self-Governing Territories which require differentiated treatment on their path to development.

D. International Labour Office

53. The involvement of the International Labour Office in Non-Self-Governing Territories is of both a normative and an operational nature.

Normative dimension

54. As far as the normative dimension is concerned, the ILO work focuses on the application and promotion of international labour standards, namely International

(binding once ratified) Labour Conventions and International Labour Recommendations (non-binding). In that regard, those Conventions were declared applicable, under article 35 of the Constitution of the ILO, to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, St. Helena, Tokelau and the United States Virgin Islands by France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as appropriate, together with the pending comments by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in relation to the cited Territories.

55. It should be noted that in the case of the Cayman Islands, Pitcairn, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Western Sahara, no declaration has been made under the above-cited article 35 of the ILO Constitution. With regard in particular to the situation of the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United Kingdom has informed the ILO that consultations are ongoing with the local authorities with a view to filing a declaration under article 35.

Operative dimension

56. Concerning the operative dimension, the Non-Self-Governing Territories benefit, in the framework of the ILO technical cooperation activities, from the ILO technical advisory and information services and some of them frequently participate in ILO-sponsored subregional meetings and seminars.

57. In particular, with regard to the Caribbean area attention is called to the following information, provided by the Subregional Office in Port-of-Spain. As a general rule, those Territories are invited to ILO subregional meetings. Officials from the ILO Office also carry out missions to the Territories to provide technical assistance and advice.

58. During 2005, the ILO Subregional Office in Port-of-Spain has carried out certain activities in the Caribbean Territories (mostly the Turks and Caicos Islands and Bermuda) in the areas of labour administration, international labour standards and some employers' activities.

E. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

59. The work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the development challenges faced by SIDS is relevant to most Non-Self-Governing Territories. The organization's assistance to those States has focused principally on support for sustainable development policies and practices in agriculture, rural development, forestry, fisheries and food security. FAO support is facilitated by its field offices, including the Subregional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados, and the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, located in Samoa.

60. FAO made contributions to the International Meeting on SIDS (SIDS+10), held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005, including: serving as a member of a panel on agriculture trade issues at the interactive panel on trade and economic development, for which FAO also prepared a substantive document; holding an FAO side event on agriculture and sustainable development in SIDS; participating in the Caribbean/Pacific partnership event on food security in SIDS; and organizing an

FAO exhibit. FAO is seeking to include SIDS in the monitoring system to track progress towards the hunger reduction targets formulated by the World Food Summit and in the Millennium Declaration. Recently, the required statistics for Bermuda and New Caledonia were prepared.

61. On 18 November 2005, FAO convened in Rome a Special Ministerial Event on Food Security and Sustainable Development in SIDS, followed by a Special Meeting of Heads of State and Government, on 23 November 2005. The Declaration of the meeting reaffirmed the desire that the food security and sustainable development of SIDS receive special attention and differential treatment. Furthermore, Ministerial proposals were endorsed to strengthen the food security programmes of SIDS through capacity-building, including activities in the numerous areas related to nutrition and food quality, land use and tenure security, investment and trade, and also related to development of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. A programme for sustainable food security was adopted and will be implemented through the expansion of the FAO Regional Programmes for Food Security in the Caribbean and Pacific SIDS, as well as through a similar initiative for Indian Ocean SIDS. FAO is currently approaching the donor community for that purpose.

62. FAO has also continued its support to SIDS, through the above-mentioned regional programmes for food security, mainly in the Caribbean and Pacific States, through the strengthening of food production systems, food policy frameworks and agriculture trade expansion. In the Caribbean, national medium-term investment plans have been completed for all countries, with FAO assistance, with a view to increasing and expanding current food security, agriculture and rural development activities.

63. Within this framework, Non-Self-Governing Territories are invited, in some instances and at their own expense, to participate in FAO subregional workshops and in other FAO relevant meetings, for example in the area of fisheries. Some of the territories are also endowed with forest resources. In the framework of the forest resources assessment, FAO has prepared and published reliable information on their forest resources. Under the International Network for Food Data Systems, FAO has food composition-related activities in New Caledonia.

64. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning Systems reported on the effects of Hurricane Charley on the countries and territories in the Caribbean region, as well as on the crop and food prospects in that and other regions where several of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are located.

F. Additional replies

65. The following specialized agencies also replied, indicating that at the present time they were not carrying out any assistance programmes in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Trade Organization.